

A Strategy Toward Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning: HITS

The Role of CDC and Local Partners

Tim Dignam, MPH
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

History of CLPPP

- The Lead Contamination Control Act of 1988
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) created in 1990
- \$4 million in 1989 to over \$42 million in 2002
- \$2.5 million in 2002 for primary prevention efforts and partnerships with Federal agencies
- 43 state and 17 local programs funded
- 15 CDC staff who serve as state and local program consultants



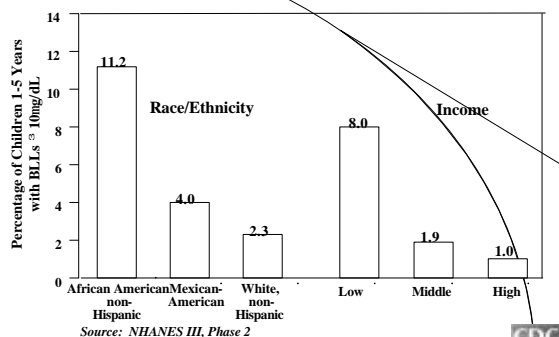
Impact of Lead Poisoning in the U.S.

- 4 million U.S. children live in deteriorating homes
- 22% of African American children who live in older housing have EBLs
- 16% of poor children who live in older housing have EBLs
- 12% of children in urban areas who live in older housing have EBLs
- The estimated economic benefit for reducing BLLs in 2-year-old children ranges from \$110 billion to \$319 billion per year*



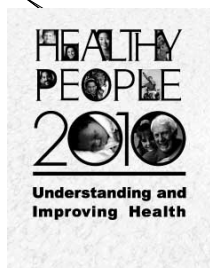
*Grosse SD, Matte TD, Schwartz J, Jackson RJ. Economic gains resulting from the reduction in children's exposure to lead in the United States. Environmental Health Perspectives. 110 (2002).

Prevalence of Childhood Lead Poisoning in the US by Demographic Characteristics, 1991 - 1994



Federal Elimination Strategy

- Act before children are poisoned
- Identify and care for lead-poisoned children
- Conduct research to improve prevention activities
- Use surveillance data to measure progress and refine lead poisoning prevention strategies
- Eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010



Elimination Strategy Lead Poisoning Surveillance

- NHANES
- CBLS
-Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance System
- HITS
-High Intensity Targeted Screening



Elimination Strategy HITS

First, what is HITS?

- 1) HITS is public health in ACTION
- 2) HITS is outreach for children at risk
- 3) HITS is dynamic and can be adapted to meet the needs of different locales.



Goals of HITS

- Identify children missed by routine screening
- Estimate burden
- Evaluate screening
- Develop partnerships
- Increase capacity



Where to Conduct HITS

- Old housing
- Numerous rental units
- Many children <6 years of age
- Medicaid-eligible children
- Minority children



Local Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

•Components for a successful HITS

- Screening
- Medical case management
- Environmental inspections and enforcement
- HUD abatement funding
- Partners



Chicago HITS Partners

- **EPA**
Environmental Protection Agency
- **CMS**
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- **HUD**
U.S. Housing and Urban Development Administration
- **CBOs**
Community Based Organizations
- **IDPH**
Illinois Dept of Health
- **CDPH**
Chicago Dept of Health
- **WIC**
Women, Infants and Children



HITS Prevention Efforts

- Remediation makes houses safer for other children
- Leverage for funding
- Education
- Environmental sampling



HITS Next Steps

- Replicate in other cities
- Collaborate with other programs
- Evolving process



HITS Proposals – Key Points

- Background
- Objectives
- Partners
- Capacity
- 2010 Elimination Plan
- Proposed budget



Success Toward Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning

- HITS and HP2010 goal of elimination
- Resource direction to more localized program
- Targets remaining children at highest risk